

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 4th Day of *May*, 1715.

Collected and extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH,
Printed by the Successors of *Andrew Anderson*, Printers to
the Church of SCOTLAND; and sold at the Shop
of *John Paton* Bookseller in the Parliament-clofs. 1715.

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S

OF THE
General Assembly

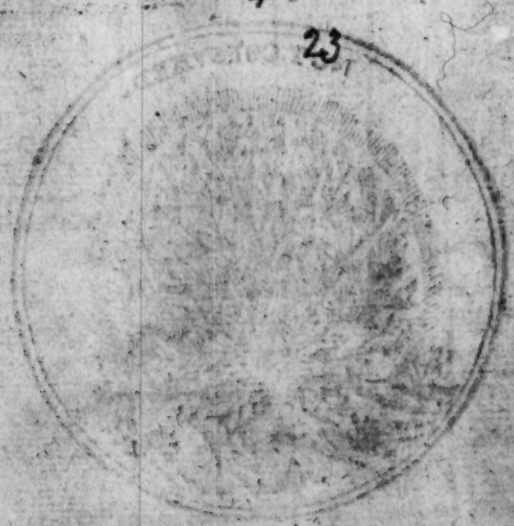
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND

Convened at Edinburgh, the 4th Day of May, 1715.

Collected and extracted by the Clerk thereof.

4 2

23



Printed by the Secretaries of the Church of Scotland, and sold at the shop of John Paton Bookseller in Parliament-Street, 1715.



43

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
 OF THE
General Assembly
 OF THE
Church of Scotland;

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Wednesday* the 4th Day of *May*, 1715; and ending the 17th Day of that same Month and Year.

I.

The King's Commission to **JOHN Earl of ROTHES** produced, and ordered to be recorded.

At *Edinburgh*, 4th *May*, 1715. *Sess. 1.*

THE General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church, being convened and constituted, there was produced to them by the Right Honourable, *John Earl of Rothes*, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the Two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*; appointing him His Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this National Assembly: Which Commission being publicly read, with all due Honour and Respect, the General Assembly ordered the same to be recorded in their Registers, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam*; the Tenor whereof follows.

GEORGIUS, Dei Gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Rex, Fideique Defensor; Omnibus probis Hominibus ad quos præsentæ Literæ Nostræ pervenerint, Salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, hunc Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in quartum Diem Mensis Maii proxime futuri convenire Ordinatus erat. Nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes, in Commodum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Ecclesiæ Conventus Die statuto debite observetur; atque Rebus magni Momenti Nos alio Vocantibus, dicto Conventui personaliter Intere

resse nequimus. Et per multa Testimonia Nobis abunde satisfactum sit de Sufficientia & Fidelitate Fidelissimi & Dilectissimi Nostri Consanguinei Joannis Comitis de Rothes, quod ad summum Munus supremi Nostri Commissionarii dicto Generali Conventui, rite exercendum & obeundum, & que quaque sit instructus & idoneus; Noveritis igitur Nos nominasse, constituisse & ordinasse, sicuti Nos, Tenore presentium; nominamus, constituimus & ordinamus predictum fidelissimum & dilectissimum Nostri Consanguineum, Joannem Comitem de Rothes, supremum Nostri Commissionarium dicto Generali Ecclesie Scotie Conventui: Dando pariter & concedendo illi plenissimam Potestatem, Commissionem & Warrantum, Sacram Nostram Personam & Auctoritatem Regalem representandi; Nec non, Presentiam Nostram supplendi, Locumque Nostrum in dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro in hunc Effectum specialiter constituto tenendi, omniaque alia ad Imperium & Munus Commissionarii pro Generali Ecclesia Conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis Respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi Muneris fecerat, seu quovis Tempore praterito facere potuerat, & ac si Nos ipse personaliter presentes facere potuerimus. Quaque omnia & singula a dicto Joanne Comite de Rothes in hac Nostre Commissione prosequenda legitime facienda Nos firmiter approbamus, & habituri sumus, omnibus & singulis insuper antedictae Ecclesie & Conventus Pastoribus & Presbyteris, ceterisque quibuscunque infra illam Partem Magnae Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, Subditis Nostri cujuscunque Gradus seu Qualitatis, ut dictum Joannem Comitem de Rothes, tanquam supremum Nostri Commissionarium, quoad Effectum & Modum supramentionatum revereantur, agnoscant, & dicti ipsius audientes se praebeant, stricte Mandamus & Imperamus. Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem a dicto quarto Die Mensis Maii proximo incipere, ac deinceps hac subsequenti Sessione dicti Generalis Conventus in Vigore continuare Declaramus; vel usque dum a Nobis revocabitur & exonerabitur. In cujus Rei Testimonium, Presentibus Sigillum Nostrum per Unionis Tractatum custodiendum, & in Scotia Vice & Loco magni Sigilli ejusdem utendum ordinatum, appendi Mandavimus. Apud Aulam Nostram de St. James's, Vigesimo tertio Die Mensis Aprilis, Anno Domini Milleesimo septingentesimo decimo quinto, & Anno Regni Nostri Primo.

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. M. Regis superscript.

Written to the Seal and
registrar, the third
Day of May, 1715.

Sealed at Edinburgh, the
third Day of May, One
thousand seven hundred
and fifteen.

CHARLES KERR.

THO. PRINGLE.

I I.

*The KING's most Gracious LET-
TER to the General Assembly.*

Presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner,
4th May, 1715.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, We Greet you well: We are so well satisfied with the Proofs the Church of *Scotland* have given of their steady Adherence to the Protestant Succession in Our Family, the Loyalty and Affection they have shown to Our Person and Government, and their constant Zeal for the Protestant Interest, that We very willingly countenance with Our Authority this first Assembly of Our Reign. We have made Choice of Our right trusty, and entirely beloved Cousin, *John* Earl of *Rosbe*, to be Our Commissioner, and to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, believing that none can be more acceptable to you, than he, who, upon all Occasions has eminently distinguished himself for the Interest of the Protestant Succession, and of the Established Church of *Scotland*. We cheerfully embrace this Opportunity of assuring you, That We will inviolably maintain the Presbyterian Church of *Scotland*, her Rights and Privileges, as We engaged to do upon Our Accession to the Crown, and will protect her from any illegal Insults and Encroachments being made upon her, of what Kind soever.

Nothing can be more acceptable to Us, than the promoting of true Piety, suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and preventing the Growth of Popery, as We have declared in Our Royal Proclamation: And We doubt not, but you on your Parts, will do every Thing that can contribute thereto.

We earnestly wish, That the vacant Churches may be supplied with Men of Learning and Probity; and We recommend to you to take effectual Care on your Parts to do every Thing that may tend to so good and pious an End; and in all your Actings, to study Unanimity and Charity: And make Our People sensible of the Blessings they enjoy, and of the bad Consequences any Kind of Divisions would have to the present Tranquillity, as well as to their future Happiness.

We have had such satisfactory Accounts of your former good Conduct, as gives Us full Confidence, that you

will act in such a Manner, as We shall have Reason to be satisfied with you : So We bid you heartily Farewel.

*Given at Our Court at St. James's, the 23d April 1715,
in the First Year of Our Reign.*

By His Majesty's Command,
MONTROSE.

Directed thus,

*To the Right Reverend and Well
Beloved, the Moderator, Ministers,
and Elders of the General Assembly
of the Church of SCOTLAND.*

III.

The General Assembly's ANSWER to the
KING's most Gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, 6th May, 1715.

May it please your Majesty,

IT was with a particular Joy and Satisfaction that we received the Gracious Letter, with which Your Majesty was pleased to honour us : We esteemed Your peaceable Accession to the Throne of these Nations, upon the Demise of our late Sovereign Queen ANNE, so great a Blessing, that we were fervent in our Prayers to GOD for it ; and we can never be thankful enough for the merciful Return he hath given to our Requests : For it is to Your Majesty, under GOD, we owe the Preservation both of our Holy Religion, and our valuable civil Liberties ; And we must have been Betrayers of both, if we had not been zealously concerned for the Succession in Your Royal Family : And though Your Majesty in Your great Goodness is pleased to express a kind Resentment of our firm Adherence to it, yet we presume not to plead Merit upon the Account of that, to which both Duty and Interest did oblige us ; but Your Majesty's countenancing us with Your Authority, gives us no small Comfort, and engageth us to thankful Acknowledgments of Your Royal Favour to us, and to be concerned to manage our selves so, as not to lose the Happiness of the good Opinion your Majesty is pleased to have of us.

We cannot but look upon it as a signal Proof of Your Majesty's Favour to us, that You honour us with such a Noble Person, as the Earl of *Rothes*, to represent Your Majesty in our Assembly : None could have been more acceptable to us than he, who, in all Turns and Changes of Affairs, did with a peculiar Zeal stand up for the Protestant Succession as the true Interest of his Country, and who was never either afraid or ashamed to manifest his unbiassed Affection to our Church ; and we hope that there shall be nothing in our Management that shall give him the least Uneasiness, in the Discharge of the Duties of his high Trust.

The

The solemn Engagement Your Majesty did cheerfully come under, at Your first Accession to the Crown, to maintain inviolably the Rights and Privileges of the Presbyterian Church of *Scotland*, of which You have the Goodness to give us renewed Assurances, as also protecting us against all illegal Insults and Encroachments being made upon us, of what Kind soever, leaves us no Place for Doubts and Fears, as to any Success that our Enemies may have in their Designs against us, under your Majesty's happy Government; and obligeth us to all the Returns of Gratitude and Duty that we are capable of.

Your Majesty's pious Concern for suppressing Vice and Immorality, and preventing the Growth of Popery, cannot but endear Your Royal Person and Government to all truly wise and good Men; and, we hope, shall bring down Blessings from Heaven upon Your Majesty and Your Royal Family, and prevent Judgments from GOD upon Your People: And we have good Grounds to be assured, That, under your Majesty's auspicious Reign, such shall be employed, as shall faithfully execute the Laws against Popery, and all such Practices as are a Stain to the Christian Profession, and against which Your Majesty hath signified Your Displeasure in Your Royal Proclamation.

We are deeply sensible of the Necessity of a holy and well qualified Ministry, for advancing the great Ends of the Gospel of our Redeemer; and that profane Churchmen are one of the greatest Plagues that either a Church or civil Society can have: And we shall not be wanting in using our outmost Endeavours to answer what Your Majesty can expect of us, in our present Circumstances, as to this Matter.

We should be unworthy of Your Majesty's Favour, if we had not a dutiful Regard to what You are in Your great Goodness pleased so kindly to recommend to us, even with a Respect to our own Interest, as to Charity and Unanimity: We are, Sir, very sensible, That it must be a great Unhappiness, especially to Religious Societies, to be plagued with Divisions; and therefore we look upon our selves as under peculiar Obligations to be aware of them: And we beg Leave to assure Your Majesty, That as we have unanimously, at all Times, witnessed our hearty Zeal and Affection for the Protestant Succession in Your Royal Family, so it is our firm Resolution, to testify, by all Methods proper to be taken by us, the Sense that we have of the wonderful Goodness of GOD, in blessing us with so good and wise a Sovereign, and to possess all under our Charge with just Impressions of the Mercy of the Overruling GOD, in bringing Your Majesty to the Throne, which hath confounded the Hopes of Enemies to the true Interest of these Nations, and given a comfortable Prospect of great Advantages to the Protestant Churches at

Home and Abroad; and it shall be our Care to manage our selves so, in all our Proceedings in this Assembly, as it may appear, that next to our Duty to GOD, it is our sincere Desire to approve our selves to Your Majesty, in bring this Assembly to such an Issue, as shall show our hearty Concern for the Honour and Quiet of Your Government.

That Your Majesty may be always under Divine Protection and Conduct, and may be long preserved for the Defence of the true Protestant Religion, the Welfare and Prosperity of all your Dominions, and of this Church in particular, That their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of *Wales*, and their Royal Issue, and all Your Royal Family may be highly favoured of GOD, and long preserved for publick Blessings in the World, and that there never may be wanting one of your Royal Progeny to sway the Sceptre of these Nations; and that all Designs against our happy Settlement under Your Majesty, the Peace of Your Government, and the Security of the Protestant Succession in Your Royal Line, may be brought to Nought, is, and shall be the constant and fervent Prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient and most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this
General Assembly of the Church of
SCOTLAND.*

*Signed in our Presence, in our Name,
and at our Appointment, by*

W. CARSTARES Moderator.

IV

ACT *Appointing the Oath taken by His Majesty, for maintaining the Church of Scotland, to be recorded.*

Eodem Die.

THE General Assembly, for the Satisfaction and Encouragement of the Ministers, and other Members of this Church, thought fit to cause read openly from the Books of the late Commission, where the same stands recorded, the solemn Engagement that his Majesty came under upon his first Accession to the Crown, to main inviolably the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government, Rights and Privileges of the Church of *Scotland*; and they ordered the same to be also recorded in the Books of Assembly: The Tenor whereof follows.

As

General Assembly 1715.

At the Court of St. James's, the 22d of September. 1714.
Present the King's most Excellent Majesty, L. Chancellor,
L. Arch B. of York, Duke of Somerset, D. of Northumberland,
D. of Bolton, D. of Devonshire, D. of Marlborough, D. of
Montrose, D. of Roxburgh, D. of Kent, Marquis of Lindsay,
M. of Dorchester, M. of Annandale, Earl of Derby, E. of
Pembroke, E. of Suffolk, E. of Northampton, E. of Manchester,
E. of Stamford, E. of Sunderland, E. of Clarendon, E. of
Anglesey, E. of Carlisle, E. of Radnor, E. of Nottingham, E.
of Rochester, E. of Abingdon, E. of Wharton, E. of
Cholmondeley, E. of Mar, E. of Loudoun, E. of Findlater,
E. of Orkney, E. of Oxford, E. of Portmore, E. of Orrery,
Vis. of Townshend, L. B. of London, Lord Paget, L. Berkeley,
L. Guilford, L. Somers, L. Halifax, L. Guernsey, L. Mansell,
L. Trevor, L. Lansdown, L. Bingley, L. Coningsby, Mr.
Bromley, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Coke, L. Ch. J. Parker, Sir John
Holland, Sir Richard Onslow, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vernon,
Mr. Erle, Mr. Hill.

I GEORGE, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland,
Defender of the Faith, &c. Do faithfully Promise and
Swear, That I shall inviolably Maintain and Preserve the
Settlement of the true Protestant Religion, with the Govern-
ment, Worship, Discipline, Right and Privileges of the Church
of Scotland, as Established by the Laws made there, in Pro-
secution of the Claim of Right; and particularly by an Act,
Intituled, Act for securing the Protestant Religion and
Presbyterian Church Government, and by the Acts past in
the Parliaments of both Kingdoms, for Union of the two King-
doms. So Help me God.

GEORGE R.

On the 22d Day of September, in the Year of our Lord
1714, at His Majesty's Palace at St. James's, His Maje-
sty, in His first General Council, did take and subscribe
the Oath above written, in Presence of the Right Honour-
able, the Lords of the Privy Council, hereafter subscrib-
ing, viz. Coupar, C. Somerset, Northumberland, Devon-
shire, Bolton, Marlborough, Montrose, Roxburgh, Kent, Lin-
day, Dorchester, Annandale, Derby, Pembroke, Suffolk, Nor-
thampton, Manchester, Stamford, Sunderland, Clarendon,
Anglesey, Carlisle, Radnor, Rochester, Abingdon, Cholmonly
Mar, Loudoun, Findlater, Orkney, Oxford and Mortimer,
Portmore, Orrery, Townshend, John London, Paget, Berk-
ley, Guildford, Somers, Halifax, Guernsey, Mansell, Trevor,
Lansdown, Coningsby, Bingley, W. Bromley, H. Boyle, T.
Coke, T. Parker J. Holland, Rich. Onslow, J. Smith, J.
Vernon, Tho. Erle, J. Hill.

EDWARD SOUTHWELL Cler. Concilii.

Whereas by an Act of Parliament made in Scotland, In-
tituled, Act for securing the Protestant Religion, and Pres-
byterian

byterian Church Government, which is made Part of another Act, Intituled, *Act Ratifying and Approving the Treaty of Union of the Two Kingdoms of Scotland and England*; And of another Act past in *England*, in the Fifth Year of the late Queen, Intituled, *An Act for the Union of the Two Kingdoms of England and Scotland*; It is provided, That after the Decease of Her late Majesty, the Sovereign succeeding to Her in the Royal Government, of the Kingdom of Great Britain, shall, in all Times coming, at His or Her Accession to the Crown, Swear and subscribe, that they shall inviolably Maintain and Preserve the Settlement, mentioned in the said Act, of the true Protestant Religion, with the Government, Worship, Discipline, Right and Privileges of the Church of Scotland, as Established by the Laws of that Kingdom, in Prosecution of the Claim of Right. And His most Sacred Majesty having this Day, in His first General Council, taken the Oath, according to the Form used by the Law of Scotland, and subscribed the same in two several Instruments, is pleased to Order, as it is hereby Ordered, That one of the said Instruments which is hereunto annexed, containing the said Oath, taken and signed by His Majesty, and witnessed by the Lords of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council then present, be transmitted to the Court of Session, to be recorded in the Books of *Sederunt*, and afterward to be forthwith lodged in the publick Register of Scotland; and that the other of them remain among the Records of the Council, and be entred in the Council-Book; and that all Persons concerned do take Notice hereof, and govern themselves accordingly.

EDWARD SOUTHWELL.

V.

ACT for Encouragment of Preachers to be sent to the North, the Highlands and Islands.

Edinburgh, 12 May 1715. Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly finding it expedient for the furthering of the Gospel, that the ordinary Allowances payable to Preachers, sent from Time to Time by the General Assemblies of this Church, or Commissions thereof, to supply vacant Churches, or in Order to be settled in the North, the Highlands, and Islands, be punctually paid; Do therefore appoint, That, in all Time coming, the ordinary Allowances payable by the Acts of Assembly to such Preachers, be paid next to the stated annual Charges of the Church, and before any other Claim or Demand whatsoever, that shall be made out of the Church's publick Money.

VI. ACT

A C T for preventing of Division in the Church.

At Edinburgh, 12th May, 1715.

TH E General Assembly considering the Representation of the Heritors of the Parish of *Lesmahago*, concerning the irregular and disorderly Practices of some Elders and People in that Parish, in withdrawing from Ordinances dispensed by the Reverend Mr. *Roberts Black* one of the Ministers of the said Parish, and others who have taken the Oath of Abjuration, when appointed by the Presbytery to supply that Church; And considering also how inconsistent such a Practice is with the Rule of G O D's Word, whereby we are enjoined to exercise mutual Love and Charity, and to maintain the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace, and contrary to the Acts of Assembly of this Church, particularly the sixth Act of the General Assembly, *Annus 1712*, and the eighth Act of the General Assembly, *Annus 1714*; And considering how prejudicial this is to the Peace and Unity of this Church, and how much it obstructs the Success of the Gospel: The General Assembly do therefore seriously, and in the Bowels of the Lord Jesus Christ, exhort and obtest all concerned in that, and other Parishes, to forbear and avoid those Disorders, which are so prejudicial to Peace and Unity, and do so much obstruct the Success of the Gospel: And the General Assembly having now transported Mr. *Black* from *Lesmahago*, do hereby order and appoint the Presbytery of *Lanark* to give all Brotherly Assistance and Encouragement to the Reverend Mr. *Thomas Linnen*, under such a weighty Charge; and particularly, that they punctually supply the Vacancy by Members of their Presbytery, without Distinction, the more effectually to dispose the People to their Duty. And the General Assembly further considering, That the distinguishing Course taken by Ministers in the Choice of their Assistants at the Celebration of the Holy Sacrament of the L O R D's Supper, which ought to be the Bond of Unity and Love among Christians, does exceedingly contribute to the confirming People in their unjust Prejudice against Ministers, and in their divisive Practices, do therefore earnestly obtest all the Ministers of this Church, carefully to guard against this, as they would not be found to lay a Stumbling-block before the People.

V I I.

ACT for preferring Students having the Irish Language to Bursaries.

At Edinburgh, May 13th, 1715.

THE General Assembly considering how needful it is, to encourage hopeful Students, having the *Irish* Language, in order to their being useful in the Highlands and Isles, where Popery abounds, do therefore enjoin all the Synods and Presbyteries of this Church to prefer such Students to their Bursaries when they vaik, and punctually to pay them their Provisions, and to take Trial of their Proficiency, and to mark their Diligence herein in their Books: And appoints the Visitors of Synod and Presbytery Books to take particular Notice how the Acts of Assembly concerning Bursaries are observed, and report the same; And further, the General Assembly instructs and requires the Commissions of the Assemblies of this Church to see to the Observation of the said Acts, and to enquire after such Students, and recommend them to Bursaries; and they do hereby renew all the Powers given to former Commissions in this Matter.

V I I I.

ACT Appointing a Committee for preserving the Purity of Doctrine, and for considering the Process, Mr. James Webster against Mr. John Simson.

At Edinburgh, 13th May, 1715.

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, for preserving and maintaining the Purity of the Doctrine of the Church of Scotland, and for bringing the Process, Mr. James Webster against Mr. John Simson, to an Issue; did resolve to appoint a Committee of Thirty Ministers and Six Ruling Elders, Twenty one being a *Quorum*, whereof Eighteen to be Ministers, to meet at Edinburgh, the third Wednesday of July next to come, and to continue *de Die in Diem*, and to adjourn themselves to what Time and Place they think fit; with Power to them to make Enquiry into whatsoever shall be found necessary for preserving and maintaining the Purity of the Doctrine of this Church; and particularly to take the foresaid Process to their Consideration, and to do whatsoever they shall find necessary, to prepare a full and distinct State thereof, to be reported to the next General Assembly, together with the Committee's Overture thereupon, in Order to a final Decision by the Assembly: And, in Order to these Ends, the General Assembly appoints the said

said Committee to observe the following Instructions, *1mo*, That the Committee draw out of the Libel, Representation, and other Papers, whatever is found erroneous, or charged by Mr. *Webster* on Mr. *Simson* as Error, laying the same down in certain distinct Propositions. *2do*, That they class the Propositions under distinct Heads; such as, *First*, Those which are contrary to the Word of GOD, Confession of Faith, Catechisms of this Church. *Secondly*, Those which are controverted amongst Orthodox Divines, and not determined by our Confession of Faith and Catechisms. *Thirdly*, Such as are not clearly contained either in the Scriptures, or the Writings of Orthodox Divines; and that the Committee proceed according to the Weight and Import of those Propositions so classed. *3tio*, That the Parties being called, Mr. *Simson* be interrogated what of these he acknowledges, what he denies, and what he qualifies: And that Mr. *Webster* be interrogated what Evidence by Writ, Witnesses, or both, he can produce to prove the Propositions denied or qualified, which the Committee shall think fit to admit to Probation. *4to*, That Mr. *Simson* in the first Place be allowed to adduce Witnesses for his Exculpation, providing always, that whatever Orthodox Sense, or Alleviations it be found he has given of Propositions advanced by him; Mr. *Webster* be also allowed to prove that he uttered these Propositions charged in an Heterodox Sense, if he think fit so to do. *5to*, That when any Article of the Libel or Exculpation is circumstantiated with Time and Place, and Persons present, that either Party be allowed to cite and examine the whole Witnesses present at that Time and Place, upon the whole Facts and Expressions, in so far as they concern the Charge and Exculpation. *6to*, That, in Order to a clear Representation to the Assembly, the Committee be careful to distinguish betwixt these Things taught by Mr. *Simson* in the School, and these emitted by him in private Conversation. And, *7mo*, The General Assembly hereby impowers their said Committee to receive Informations against any Ministers or Teachers of this Church, concerning any Thing not agreeable to the Doctrine or Form of sound Words received in this Church, and to examine any Books or Pamphlets, published by any Minister or Teacher within this Church, containing any Thing not agreeable to the said Doctrine and Form of sound Words, and to call these concerned, and in an orderly Way make what Enquiry is necessary to ripen the same, and prepare an Overture thereanent to the next General Assembly. The above Overture and Instructions being agreed to, the General Assembly did next resolve to remit, and hereby do remit to their Committee for Overtures, the Nomination of the abovementioned Committee of Thirty Ministers, and Six Ruling Elders; who are to examine these Matters, to be done by them in the Manner following, *viz.* That each Member of the

foresaid Committee for Overtures, give in to it a full List, subscribed with his Hand, of the Persons who he thinks should be of that other Committee, consisting of any Ministers and Elders of this Church, who are not either Libellers or libelled in this Process, especially of such Professors of Divinity as are Ministers, the Members of the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, and the Witnesses in this Cause, not excluded: And these Lists being compared, and the Persons therein contained being marked, That the said Number of Thirty Ministers and Six Ruling Elders of these contained in the said Lists, who shall be found to have the greatest Number of Votes, shall be made the Members of the abovementioned Committee, and be reported as such to the General Assembly at their next Meeting.

IX.

ACT concerning the Grievances of this Church, from Toleration, Patronages, &c.

At *Edinburgh*, May 14th, 1715. Sess. 10.

THE Committees for Instructions and Overtures, having had under Consideration the Grievances this Church lies under from Patronages, from the Toleration as it stands, the Hardships imposed upon *Scotsmen* in Office in *England* and *Ireland*, and the Prejudice done to this Church by the Differences that have arisen about the Oath of Abjuration; and having also considered what the Commission of the late General Assembly had done with Respect to these, and particularly a Memorial which they had drawn about the same, and sent to Members of Parliament: The Committee for Overtures gave it as their Opinion, That the said Memorial did fully express all that was necessary upon these Heads; and therefore they laid the said Memorial before the General Assembly, with an Overture as to the Management thereof. And which Memorial and Overture being heard and considered by the General Assembly, they did approve thereof, and agree thereto; and ordained it to be held as the Deed and Mind of this Assembly, as follows.

MEMORIAL for the Church of Scotland, by the General Assembly.

THE Church of *Scotland*, being restored at the happy Revolution, was, by the Claim of Right, and Acts of Parliament following thereupon, established in its Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government; and, that this legal Constitution and Establishment might be unalterably secured, it was declared to be a fundamental and essential

essential Condition of the Union, and accordingly ratified in the Parliaments of both Kingdoms : But the Zeal of the established Church of *Scotland* for, and their steady Adherence to the Protestant Succession, did expose them to the Resentments of a disaffected Party ; and likewise they account themselves aggrieved by some Acts past in the Parliament of *Great Britain* ; As, 1^{mo}, By the Act granting such a large, and almost boundless Toleration to these of the Episcopal Persuasion in *Scotland*, while the Liberty allowed to Protestant Dissenters in *England*, who had always given the most satisfying Proofs of their undoubted Zeal and good Affection to the Protestant Succession, was retrenched : And though the Church of *Scotland* hath an equal Security in a legal Establishment with that of *England*, yet there is a vast Inequality as to the Toleration of the respective Dissenters. In *Scotland* the Toleration doth not restrain the disseminating the most dangerous Errors, by requiring a Confession of Faith, or Subscription to the doctrinal Articles of the established Church, as is required of Dissenters in *England* ; it also weakeneth the Discipline of the Church against the Scandalous and Profane, by withdrawing the Concurrence of the Civil Magistrate. It is also an Inequality and Hardship upon the established Church of *Scotland*, that these of her Communion, who are employed in his Majesty's Service in *England* or *Ireland*, should be obliged to join in Communion and Conformity with the Church of *England* ; whereas Conformity to this Church is not required (nor do we plead that it should be) of Members of the Church of *England*, when called to serve His Majesty in *Scotland*, who here enjoy the full Liberty of Dissenters without Molestation ; and the common and equal Privileges of the Subjects of the united Kingdom, stipulated by the Union, claim the same Liberty to the Members of the Church of *Scotland*, when employed in his Majesty's Service in *England* or *Ireland*. 2^{do}, By the Act restoring the Power of Presentation to Patrons, the legally established Constitution of this Church was altered in a very important Point, and while it appears equitable in itself, and agreeable to the Liberty of Christians and a free People, to have Interest in the Choice of these to whom they intrust the Care of their Souls, it is an Hardship to be imposed upon in so tender a Point ; and that frequently by Patrons, who have no Property nor Residence in the Parishes : And this besides the Snares of Simonaical Pactions, and the many Troubles and Contests arising from the Power of Patronages, and the Abuses thereof by disaffected Patrons putting their Power in other Hands, who as effectually serve their Purposes ; by Patrons competing for the Right of Presentation in the same Parish ; and by

frequently presenting Ministers, settled in eminent Posts, to mean and small Parishes, to elude the planting thereof: By all which, Parishes are often kept long vacant, to the great Hindrance of the Progress of the Gospel.

The General Assembly considering the Circumstances of the Church of *Scotland*, with Respect to the Oath of Abjuration, as they are fully represented in the humble Addresses of the Commission and General Assembly held in *Anno* 1712, Copies whereof are herewith transmitted, do humbly and earnestly intreat, that suitable Remedies may be thought of.

W. CARSTARES Moderator.

And the General Assembly recommended to all their Members to use their best Endeavours with Friends at *London*, that the Ends of the Addresses of the Commission and General Assembly 1712, and Act of the General Assembly the 14th *May* that Year concerning the Oath of Abjuration, may be obtained; and must humbly desired His Majesty's High Commissioner, That he would be pleased to use his good Offices for that End,

The General Assembly did appoint this Memorial to be put in the Hands of their Commission, and did enjoin them to use all proper and due Means to obtain Redress, and particularly at their first Meeting, to send the same to the Duke of *Montrose*, principal Secretary of State, most humbly entreating his Grace to take a fit Opportunity to acquaint His Majesty thereof.

X.

Commission to some Ministers and Elders, for preserving and maintaining Purity of Doctrine, &c.

At *Edinburgh* 16th *May*, 1715. Sess. 11.

THE which Day the Committee for Overtures reported, That they having taken in from each of their Members subscribed Lists of such as they thought fit to be of the Committee for preserving & maintaining the Purity of the Doctrine of this Church, and examining and considering the Process at the Instance of Mr. *James Webster*, against Mr. *John Simson*; and made an exact Scrutiny, in Pursuance of the Assembly's Appointment upon *Friday* last the 13th of *May* current; they found, that the following Persons had the Majority of Votes, and therefore they returned them as the Members of that Committee, viz. The Reverend Mr. *William Carstares* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh* Moderator, Mr. *James Haddow* Principal of the New College of *St. Andrews*,
Mr.

Mr. Thomas Linnen Minister at Lesmahago, Mr. William Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, Mr. Thomas Blackwell Professor of Divinity in the Marischal College of Aberdeen, Mr. David Anderson Professor of Divinity in the King's College at Aberdeen, Mr. William Mitchel Minister at Edinburgh, Mr. John Anderson at Dumbartoun, Mr. Andrew Cameron at Kirkcudbright, Mr. James Ramsay at Kelfo, Mr. John Hunter at Ayr, Mr. William Webster at Edinburgh, Mr. James Smith at Craigh, Mr. John Currie at Haddington, Mr. John Gray at Glasgow, Mr. John Ritchie at Old-Kilpatrick, Mr. Andrew Roder at Galsburgh, Mr. Alexander Lauder at Mordington, Mr. John Hamilton at Glasgow, Mr. Robert Horsburgh at Selkirk, Mr. John Brand at Barrowstonness, Mr. George Turnbull at Tynninghame, Mr. James Alston at Dornoch, Mr. Thomas Black at Perth, Mr. James Cathbert at Calross, Mr. William M'George at Pennycook, Mr. George Chalmers at Kilwinning, Mr. Allan Logan at Torryburn, Mr. William Miller and Mr. John Flint at Edinburgh, Ministers: Sir Hugh Dalrymple of Northberwick Baronet Lord President of the Session, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, Mr. John Clark one of the Barons of Exchequer, Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees His Majesty's Solicitor, Colonel John Erskine of Carnock, and Dr. Alexander Dundas Physician, Ruling Elders. The said Report being thus made, Parties were called and compeared, and Mr. James Webster repeated his former Declaration, That he would not further state himself as a Pursuer in this Matter, having already sufficiently exonerated himself, as he alledged. And Mr. John Simson repeated his Answers, alledging, That Mr. Webster was obliged to make out his Charge, under pain of Censure; whereupon they were both removed. And the General Assembly having heard and considered the said Report and Nomination, did approve thereof; and hereby do Commissionate and Appoint the Thirty Ministers and Six Ruling Elders abovenamed, to convene here at Edinburgh, within the Assembly House, upon the third Wednesday of July next to come, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon for their first Diet, and to proceed according to the Powers and Instructions formerly agreed upon and approved by this Assembly, the said 13th Day of May current, in all Points.

E

Commission

XI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing divers Affairs referred to them.

At Edinburgh, 16th May, 1715.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, that there are divers weighty Affairs, which they cannot undertake, do nominate and appoint their Reverend Brethren, Masters William Carstairs Principal of the College of Edinburgh and one of the Ministers of that City their Moderator, Thomas Vernor at Balmaclellan, Patrick Simson at Renfrew, William Vetch at Drumfries, Patrick Vernor late Minister at Irvine, James Ramsay at Bendochie, William Lyon at Airth, David Thomson at Meikle, Samuel Johnston and Robert Kinloch at Dundee, James Hodge at Longforgan, James Adams at Kinaird, Charles Charters at Aberlhot, Andrew Bruce at Innerkeillor, George Wemyss at Ferne, John Johnston at Brechin, William Armat at Montrose, John Thomson at Marykirk, David Ramsay at Fettercairn, Andrew Honeyman at Kinneff, Thomas Blackwell Professor of Divinity in Marischal College of Aberdeen, David Anderson Professor of Divinity at King's College there, Alexander Mitchel there, William Mair at Kincardine, John Shepberd at Midmar, Alexander Tosh at Tarland, Patrick Coupland at Touch, George Moir at Torrie, William Johnston at Auchindore, William Lesly at Chapple of Garioch, Alexander Shand at Inch, James Gordon at Bourtrie, John Wester at Newdeer, James Lesly at Crimond, John Mercer at Tyrie, William Forbes at Tarves, John Mulligen at Methlick, Patrick Darling at Boyndie, Robert Gordon at Rathven, Alexander Ross at Auchterless, John Turring at Drumblate, Hugh Innes at Mortleith, John Gilchrist at Keith, James Bannerman at Inveroven, Duncan M'lea at Kirkmichael, James Chapman at Cromdale, Daniel Mackenzie at Kingoassie, James Thomson at Elgin, Joseph Sanderson at Alves, James Gordon at Kinloss, David Henderson at Oldearn, William Stewart and Robert Baillie at Inverness, Daniel M'gilligen at Alves, Robert Finlay at Rosemarkie, Hugh Manvo at Tain, George Monro at Nig, Walter Denoon at Galspie, Robert Kirk at Dornoch, William Innes at Thurso, William M'beath at Olrig, Alexander Grant at Southronaldshay, Thomas Baikie at Kirkwall, Thomas Coventrie and Thomas Keith at Sanday, James Buchan and Andrew Fiskin at Zetland, William Wisheart, James Hart, William Mitchel and James Grierson at Edinburgh, Samuel Semple at Libertoun, John Guthrie at Ratho, William Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, Alexander Dalgliesh at Linlithgow, John Brand at Borrowstounness, John Wilkie at Uphall, James Nasmith at Dalmenie, John Tait at Kilbucho, Thomas Simson at Broughtoun,

town, Andrew Mitchel at Mavor, James Robertson at Eccle-
 stoun, John Wallace at Drummelzier, Patrick Cuming at Orm-
 stoun, William M'george at Pennycook, James Burnet at Laf-
 walle, John Currie at Haddingtoun, Matthew Reid at North-
 berwick, Robert Horsburgh at Saltpreston, George Turnbull
 at Tynninghame, Andrew Brown at Spett, John Dawson at
 Dunge, James Gilliland at Greenlaw, John Dyfett at Col-
 dingham, John Poir at Lennel, Robert Park at Foulton,
 James Ramsay at Kelso, John Glen at Stitchel, Robert Liver
 at Mertoun, George Logan at Lauder, James Noble at Eok-
 foord, Alexander Golden at Oxnam, Thomas Thomson at South-
 den, Thomas Boston at Ettrick, Adam Miln at Melrose, Ro-
 bert Bichet at Middlee, James Currie at Hoddam, George
 Young at Hutton, David Wightman at Applegirth, Francis
 Lindsay at Johnstoun, Mungo Gibson at Sanguhar, Thomas
 Tod at Derisdeer, James Guthrie at Invergny, Robert Blair
 at Holywood, John Bowie at Teagair, Andrew Cameron at
 Kirkcudbright, James Monteith at Borgue, William Tod at
 Buttle, Archibald Hadden at Sorbie, William Campbell at Kirk-
 nder, Archibald Marshall at Kirkcuth, John Godfray at Les-
 walt, Andrew Rodger at Galtoun, William Maitland at
 Mauchlin, James Laurie at Dalrymple, James Robertson at
 Craigie, John Steil at Oldcunnock, Hugh Fauside at Newmills,
 William Wright at Kilmarnock, Thomas Clark at Androssen,
 John Paisly at Lochinnoch, Andrew Turner at Greenock, Ro-
 bert Woodrow at Eastwood, John Scott at Glasgow, David
 Ewing at Calder, William Love at Cathcart, John Stirling
 Principal of the College of Glasgow, John Muirhead at
 Cambusnethan, Robert Law at Shotts, John Currie at Old-
 munkland, Thomas Linnen at Lesmahago, James Hepburn at
 Crawfordmuir, John Orr at Lanerk, John Anderson at Dum-
 bartoun, John Ritchie at East-Kirkpatrick, Archibald Wallace
 at Cardross, Dougal Stewart at Rothsay, Walter Campbell at
 Denoon, Dougal Campbell at Southend, John Campbell at
 Kilarow, Duncan Campbell at Kilbrenan, James Gattie at
 Inverary, John M'lean at Kilminan, Daniel Morison at Kil-
 branden, Daniel M'Aulay at Braccadale, Alexander Glass at
 Kinclevan, William Chalmers at Dunkelt, James Gray at Kin-
 loch, Robert Bowis at Rattray, Thomas Black at Perth, Sa-
 muel Nairn at Errol, Andrew Darling at Kinnoul, James
 Fachney at St. Martin, Andrew Burgh at Mathertie, Archibald
 Bowie at Monie, Andrew Ure at Muckhart, Alexander Ha-
 milton at Airth, John Gray at Dollar, George Mair at Tullis-
 allan, John Taylor at Tillicultry, Alan Logan at Torryburn, Ro-
 bert Migill at Kinross, Alexander Scott at Aberdour, Andrew
 Eliot at Auchtermuchty, Thomas Nairn at Abbotshall, Patrick
 Clow at Lesly, Alexander Anderson at Faulkland, John Stark
 at Logie, Thomas Thomson at Auchtermuchty, James Hendry
 at Creich, Patrick Coupar at Pittenweem, Walter Wilson at
 Kilconquhar, Joseph Pittairn at Kingsbarns, Hugh Kemp
 at Carnbie, James Haddow Principal of the New College

of St. Andrews, Ministers; John Duke of Arbole, Charles Marquis of Tweeddale, John Earl of Rothes, David Earl of Buchan, Thomas Earl of Haddington, James Earl of Forth, John Earl of Kilmarnock, John Earl of Rothes, Patrick Earl of Marchmont, James Earl of Hyndford, David Earl of Glasgow, Archibald Earl of Illy, William Lord Strathnaver, Alexander Lord Polwarth, Lord Charles Ker Director of His Majesty's Chancery, William Lord Forbes, William Lord Ross, James Lord Torphichen, George Lord Rae, Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North Berwick Baronet Lord President of the Session, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, Sir John Maxwell of Nether Pollock Baronet, Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto Baronet, Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Ferglen Baronet, Mr. James Hamilton of Pencailand, and Sir Andrew Hume of Kilmarnock Seven of the Senators of the College of Justice, John Clerk of Pennycook One of the Barons of His Majesty's Exchequer, Mr. John Campbell of Mamore Uncle to his Grace the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Francis Montgomery of Giffers Uncle to the Earl of Eglington, Sir David Dalrymple of Hailes Baronet His Majesty's Advocate, Colonel William Dalrymple of Glenmore, Mr. Arthur Forbes of Breda, Son to the late Lord Forbes, Colonel John Ereskine of Carnock Son to the deceased David Lord Cardross, George Warrender of Lochend Lord Provost of Edinburgh, John Scrimgeour of Kirkcaldy late Provost of Dundee, David Maxwell late Baillie in Dundee, Arthur Forbes of Edd, Captain John Forbes of Bonydrie, Robert Stewart Provost of Aberdeen, John Allardice late Provost there, James Murison Baillie there, Alexander Grant of that Ilk Brigadier General, Hugh Ross of Kilravock, Joseph Brodie of Miltoun, Mr. Patrick Grant of Easter Elchies Advocate, Captain Robert Menno of Foulis Younger, Sir William Gordon of Dalfolly Baronet, Sir Robert Dundas of Northfield Baronet, Mr. Robert Honeyman of Gremsey, Mr. James Mitchel of Westshore, Dr. Matthew Sinclair, Dr. David Mitchel, and Dr. Alexander Dundas, Physicians in Edinburgh, John Duncanson Baillie there, Robert Craig Dean of Guild of Edinburgh, Sir George Wisheart of Cliftonhall, Mr. John Mitchel of Aldershall, William Baillie of Lamingtoun, Baillie William Mosman, Sir John Clark of Pennycook Baronet, Sir Robert Dalrymple of Castletoun, Charles Brown of Colstoun, Sir William Baird of Newbyth Baronet, Sir James Hall of Dingwall Baronet, Sir John Stewart of Allbank Baronet, Sir John Swinton of that Ilk Baronet, Sir John Pringle of Stirling Baronet, Archibald Douglas of Cavers, Sir Gilbert Elliot of Stabs Baronet, George Baillie of Jerviswood, Robert Rutherford of Fearnlie, Sir William Johnston of Westeraw Baronet, Sir Thomas Kilpatrick of Clachburn Baronet, Robert Corbet Provost of Drumsfries, Abraham Crichton of Cairland, Colonel William Maxwell of Cardross, John Martin of Airies

Sir James Agnew of Lochnaw Baronet, Sir Charles Hay of Park Baronet, Sir Adam Whitefoord of Blairguban Baronet, William Muir of Caldwell, Walter Stewart of Pardovan, John Aird Provost of Glasgow, Mr. William Forbes Advocate Professor of Law in the College of Glasgow, Sir Robert Pollock of that Ilk Baronet, Sir James Smollet of Bonhill, Claud Hamilton of Barns, Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees Baronet His Majesty's Solicitor, Sir James Campbell of Ardkinglass Baronet, John Campbell of Knockreoch, Dr. William Stewart of Ambrismore, John M'leod of Contilick Tutor of M'leod, Patrick Teaman of Eastmill, William Austin Provost of Perth, Sir James Campbell of Aberuchil Baronet, Sir Henry Rollo of Woodside, Henry Cuninghame of Balguban, Colonel John Erskine Brother to Sir John Erskine of Alva, Colonel John Blackadder, Brigadier James Bruce of Kennet, Sir James Holburn of Menstrie Baronet, Mr. Andrew Ramsay of Abbotshall, Thomas Stark of Bandean, William Greg Baillie in Coupar, Mr. Robert Ramsay Provost of the Old College of St. Andrews, Captain Robert Nairn, Mr. James Boswell of Auchinleck Advocate, Mr. Alexander Abercromby of Tillibody Advocate, Sir Walter Pringle Advocate, Mr. William Brodie Advocate, Mr. James Gelly Advocate, Mr. Gilbert Burnet Advocate and George Drummond Two of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Excise, Dr. James Forrest and Dr. John Riddel Physicians in Edinburgh, Mr. Alexander Menzies of Culterallers, Captain John Campbell, Mr. John Goodale Professor of Hebrew in the College of Edinburgh, Mr. James Baillie Writer to His Majesty's Signet, John Dunbar present Deacon-Conveener of the Trades of Edinburgh, and John Knox Chirurgeon there, Ruling Elders; To be Commissioners of the General Assembly, to the Effect after-mentioned, with Power to the said Persons, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, and afterward the second *Wednesdays* of *August*, *November* and *March*, and oftner when or where they shall think needful and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to choose their own Moderator: And sick-like, the General Assembly fully impowers and authorizes their said Commission, or their *Quorum* abovementioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this General Assembly; and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions to be given them by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interests of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they

will be answerable; providing this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs or Processes before Presbyteries or Synods, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon this whole Church. And it is declared and appointed, That what shall be determined at one Diet of the said Commission, with relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force, till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly hereby renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirteen, to their Commissioners; and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners above-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially herein insert. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed or referred to them as abovementioned; and in all their Actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitutions of this Church, and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same: Declaring, That in, and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And this Commission is to continue and endure, until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the Seventeenth Act of the General Assembly One thousand seven hundred and six. And, for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within Twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for Meetings of the Commission: And such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof; and Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have Four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care that at least Two of them attend each Diet of the Commission.

X I I.

ACT Recommending a publick Collection, for the Use of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge.

At *Edinburgh*, 17th May, 1715.

THE which Day there was a Petition presented to the General Assembly, for the Committee of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge, shewing, That the said Society had for the

space

space of Six Years been prosecuting the noble Design of their Erection, and had done what they could to obtain the Concurrence and Assistance of charitably disposed Persons; and that full Representations of the State of their Affairs had been yearly given in to the venerable General Assemblies of this National Church; Letters had been written to the Reverend Synods and Presbyteries, to the Justices of Peace at their Quatter Sessions, Sheriffs of Shires, and to the several Royal Burghs in Scotland; and that Correspondents had been nominated in the several Shires, and also in divers Places abroad, by which Means the Society had got in, and laid out on Interest, as a Stock, the Sum of Six thousand Pound *Sterling* and upwards: And that the said Society, upon the Interest of this Stock, had erected Twenty four Charity Schools, and are about to erect more; but being obliged to furnish Books, Paper, and other Necessaries for these Schools, which does amount to a considerable Sum, and the Rate of Annualrents being now reduced by Law to Five *per Cent.* and some of the Society's Annualrents not being punctually paid; the Society are not in Case to answer the necessary Demands of divers Presbyteries and Ministers, with Relation to settling of Schools and furnishing Books: And seeing the Society neither will nor can diminish any of their Stock, and that it is hoped many who have already contributed, as well as others, will contribute to enable the Society to furnish their Scholars with Books, and to settle a greater Number of small itinerant Schools in remote Glens and Places in the Highlands and Islands, where Popery and Ignorance abounds, and otherwise to carry on this good and hopeful Design, which has been already so much countenanced of GOD in a very signal Manner; for in some of these Schools already settled, there are Forty, Fifty, Sixty, Seventy, and in one of them upwards of a Hundred Scholars. And the said Committee have had very satisfying and comfortable Accounts of their Progress in Learning to read and write, and in learning of Arithmetick; in so much, that, in some of these Places where the Schools are settled, the Generality of the Children, who knew not a Letter when they came to these Schools, have within a short Time thereafter read the Bible distinctly, and repeated the Shorter Catechism in the Churches, and answered the Questions gravely and distinctly, to the great Satisfaction of the Congregations: And the said Committee have had Accounts from some of the Ministers of these Parishes, where these Schools are fixed, That their Parishes, which were the most ignorant in the Country, would become the most knowing, through the Blessing of GOD upon the great Pains and Care taken by the School-Masters (who are under the Inspection of the Presbyteries and Ministers of

the Bounds) and that it is thought the Youth trained up in some of these Schools, through the same Blessing of GOD, will be among the first that will yield a cordial Reception to the Gospel; and that some of these young Ones, Children of Popish Parents, are come to that Length, that they will by no Means hear a Popish Priest: That in some of these Schools married Persons are learning to read, and Servants male and female were quitting Service for a Time, and attending the School: That in divers of these Places, where Superstition and Popery abounds, there was an earnest Desire among People after Christian Knowledge: And several other Instances could be given; but the said Committee were unwilling to take up the venerable Assembly's Time, seeing any who desired further Information, might have the same in an Account of the Rise and Progress of the said Society, printed by it self, and other Papers of the Society: And therefore craving to the Effect after-mentioned. The General Assembly having heard and considered the said Petition, and the Opinion of their Committee for Bills thereupon, and finding that very satisfying Reports of the Society's Diligence had been made to former Assemblies by such as at the Society's Desire were appointed to enquire into their Management and to inspect their Books; the General Assembly did unanimously, and hereby do recommend a publick Collection at all the Church Doors in *Scotland*, upon such Days as the several Presbyteries and Magistrates of Burghs shall think fit, any Time betwixt and the first Day of *January* next to come, for buying Books to the Society's Scholars, and settling more Schools; and appoints, That the Money so to be collected be sent in timeously to Mr. *George Watson* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, the Society's Treasurer, to be disposed of for the Uses mentioned in the above-narrated Petition, as the Society shall judge most conducive to the furthering the Instruction of the poorer Sort, who are not in Case to board themselves at any Distance from the Places of their Residence, and advancing the other pious Ends of their Erection: And the General Assembly finding, That the Recommendations of former Assemblies in Favours of the said Society have not been duly observed by divers Presbyteries and Ministers, they did, and hereby do renew the same; and do appoint, That the said Acts and Recommendations of former Assemblies, in Favours of the Society, be read in these Congregations where the same has not been done: And the Assembly earnestly desires Ministers and others, who have subscribed, but have not paid in what they subscribed for, to send in the same with all Diligence to the Society's Treasurer; and also appoints the Account of the Diligence and Success of the Society in their pious Undertaking, as above-narrated, to be read at the Intimation of this Collection
from

from the several Pulpits on the Lord's Day. And lastly the General Assembly appointed the Reverend Mr. *William Carstairs* their Moderator, Mr. *William Mitchel*, and Mr. *James Haddow*, Members of this Assembly, to be present with the said Society at their next general Meeting, and give them the Assembly's Thanks for their great Concern and unwearied Diligence in advancing so noble a Work, and shew them, That the Assembly did unanimously grant the Desire of their Petition.

XIII.

ACT against Popery and Profanity.

At Edinburgh, May 17th, 1715. Sess. 12.

THE General Assembly appoints, That his Majesty's Proclamation against Profanity, as also the Ab-breviate of the Laws against Immorality be read from the Pulpits of all the Churches of Scotland, upon the first LORD's Day of *August* next; and renews the fifth Act of the General Assembly, Anno 1714, For the better Execution of the Laws against Profaneness: And also the eleventh Act of that same General Assembly, intituled, *Act for procuring the better Execution of former Acts against Popery, and for preventing the Growth thereof.*

XIV.

ACT discharging Prelatical Preachers, and some who profess to be Presbyterians, and separate from this Church, to exercise Church Discipline.

At Edinburgh, 17th May, 1715.

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland being informed, That *Elizabeth Salmon*, who was conveyed before the Presbytery of *Kirkaldie* for Uncleanness, did judicially declare, That Mr. *Colin Mackenzie* of *Rosend* was the Father of the Child she had brought forth; whereupon the Presbytery ordered the said Mr. *Colin Mackenzie* to be cited, to compare before them at their next Meeting, the Twenty sixth Day of this Month: And it being further represented, That Mr. *David Blair* and Mr. *David Middleton*, in Conjunction with Mr. *William Dugud* and Mr. *James Guthrie* Prelatical Preachers, have taken upon them to convey the said Mr. *Colin Mackenzie* of *Rosend* three Times before them the last Week, and have given him an Oath of Purgation, which was read in the Meeting-house of *Burntisland*, intimating, That the said Mr. *Colin Mackenzie* is to swear that Oath in the said Meeting-house next LORD's Day, for removing the Scandal: And considering, That this is an illegal Encroachment upon the Discipline of the Church, which may prove of

dangerous Consequence, the General Assembly orders the Presbytery of *Kirkaldie* to proceed against the said Mr. *Colin Mackenzie* of *Rosend*, according to the Rules of this Church, notwithstanding of any Thing these Prelatical Preachers have done, or may do in that Affair. And further, the General Assembly discharges these Prelatical Preachers to proceed any further in that Matter, as they will be answerable; and appoints this to be intimated to them by the Officers of this Assembly, and refers it to the Commission to take Care, that the Assembly's Authority be not contemned in this Case: And the Assembly does appoint this Method to be observed in the Cases of Scandal, when any others, either Episcopal Preachers, or such such as pretend to be Presbyterian Ministers, but do separate from this Church, take upon them to exercise Discipline.

XV.

ACT for prosecuting some, who, professing to be Presbyterians, do separate from this Church; and an Appointment concerning Papists, and Episcopal Intruders.

At Edinburgh, 17th May, 1715. Sess. 12.

THE General Assembly taking to Consideration the Representations made to them concerning the Irregularities of Mr. *John M'Millan* late Minister at *Balmagie*, Mr. *John Taylor* late Minister at *Wamphray*, both now deposed, Mr. *John M'neil*, and Mr. *John Adamson*, pretended Preachers, Mr. *John Hepburn* Minister at *Orr*, and Mr. *James Gilchrist* Minister at *Dunscore*; they do refer it to their Commission, at their first Meeting, to take the Irregularities of the foresaid Persons under their Consideration; and if the said Commission think fit, the General Assembly does empower them to summon the said Mr. *John M'Millan*, Mr. *John Taylor*, Mr. *John M'Neil*, and Mr. *John Adamson* before them, and to proceed to further Censure, or apply to the Civil Magistrate against them, as shall be thought most fit: And as to the said Mr. *John Hepburn* and Mr. *James Gilchrist*, the Assembly appoints the Presbytery of *Dumfries* forthwith to cause cite them before them, to answer for their irregular Practices, and, if need be, to summon Witnesses, and take Depositions in that Matter, and thereafter either to proceed to Sentence, or refer the Affair to the said Commission, as they shall see Cause; and they empower the Commission to proceed to Censure as they shall think fit: And the General Assembly hereby declares,

declares, That the said Mr. *John Hepburn* and the Parish of *Orr* are under the Inspection of the Presbytery of *Dumfries*; and the Assembly makes void all Acts made formerly to the contrary. And the Assembly instructs their Commission, if need be, to apply to the Civil Government for suppressing the Disorders of the said Mr. *John M'Millan*, Mr. *John Taylor*, Mr. *John M'Neil*, Mr. *John Adamson*, Mr. *John Hepburn*, and Mr. *James Gilchrist*, and also for punishing such as are guilty of solemnizing Marriages clandestinely, and contrary to Law; and appoints Presbyteries to send in timeously full Informations to the Commission, that the same may be laid before the Government.

The General Assembly appoints Presbyteries, and the several Brethren in those Countries where Popery abounds, or where Episcopal Preachers do intrude into Parishes, Churches, Manes or Glebes, to send up to the Lord Justice Clerk, and His Majesty's Advocate and Solicitor, particular Informations, containing the Facts, Parties Names, the Circumstances of the Transgression, such as Time, Place, &c. with Lists of the Witnesses, their Names and Designations, that can prove the said Facts.

XVI.

ACT appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

At *Edinburgh*, 17th May, 1715. Sess. 12. & ult.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh* the first *Thursday* of *May* next to come, in the Year of our LORD, One thousand seven hundred and sixteen.

This Assembly was concluded with Prayer, singing the 124 Psalm throughout, and pronouncing the Blessing.

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JO. DUNDAS, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

A T A B L E

O F T H E

Printed ACTS of the General
Assembly held in the Year 1715.

	Page
I. T HE KING's Commission to <i>JOHN</i> Earl of <i>ROTHES</i> produced, and ordered to be recorded.	3
II. The KING's most gracious LETTER to the General Assembly.	5
III. The General Assembly's ANSWER to the KING's most gracious Letter.	6
IV. Act appointing the Oath taken by His Majesty for maintaining the Church of <i>Scotland</i> to be recorded.	9
V. Act for Encouragement of Preachers to be sent to the North, the Highlands, and Islands.	11
VI. Act for preventing of Division in the Church. <i>Ibid.</i>	
VII. Act for preferring Students having the <i>Irish</i> Language to Bursaries.	12
VIII. Act appointing a Committee for preserving the Purity of Doctrine, and for considering the Process, Mr. <i>James Webster</i> against Mr. <i>John Simson</i> .	13
IX. Act concerning the Grievances of this Church, from Tolleration, Patronages, &c.	15
X. Commission to some Ministers and Elders, for preserving and maintaining Purity of Doctrine, &c.	17
XI. Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing divers Affairs referred to them.	18
XII. Act recommending a publick Collection, for the Use of the Society in <i>Scotland</i> for propagating Christian Knowledge.	24
XIII. Act against Popery and Profanity.	26
XIV. Act discharging Prelatical Preachers, and some who profess to be Presbyterians, and separate from this Church, to exercise Church Discipline. <i>Ibid.</i>	
XV. Act for prosecuting some, who, professing to be Presbyterians, do separate from this Church; and an Appointment concerning Papists, and Episcopal Intruders.	
XVI. Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.	28

INDEX

INDEX

Of the ACTS, &c. of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1715, which are not printed.

After Sermon by Mr. *William Mitchel*, Moderator of the preceeding Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene, and Mr. *William Carstairs* was chosen Moderator, May 4th, 1715. *Session 1.*

Acts appointing the King's Commission to the Earl of *Rothies*, and also His Majesty's most Gracious Letter, to be recorded. *Ibidem.*

His Grace His Majesty's Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly, at opening thereof. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech at opening the Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to draw an Answer to His Majesty's most Gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures, &c. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

Committee for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace His Majesty's Commissioner, and taking up Lists of Probationers for the Holy Ministry, and Students of Divinity. *Ibid.*

The Commission Book and Synod Books ordered to be produced next Diet to be revised. *Ibid.*

Appointment of a Diet of the General Assembly for solemn Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer, May 5th, 1715. *Sess. 2.*

Nomination of two Ministers to preach before his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

Some Commissions produced, and Additions made to Committees, May 6th, *Ses. 3.*

An Answer to His Majesty's most Gracious Letter unanimously approved. *Ibid.*

A Committee of some from the several Synods, appointed to revise and examine the Register of the Commission of the late General Assembly, and for auditing the Procurator and Agents for the Church their Accounts, and for considering what further concerns the Church's publick Money and Collections. *Ibid.*

Committees appointed to revise and examine the Registers of the Synods of *Angus* and *Merns*, *Aberdeen*, *Ross* and *Sutherland*, *Caithness* and *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Mers* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Argyll*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, and *Fife*, and these Committees ordered to observe the Directions given in the 4th Act of the General Assembly 1713. *Ibid.*

I N D E X.

The Synod of *Murray* not producing their Book at this Time excused. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Members out of the several Synods appointed to receive the Instructions of Presbyteries to their Commissioners in this Assembly, and any Overtures proposed by Synods and Presbyteries, and to class the same, and to consider the State of the Church in the North, the Highlands and Islands, and Growth of Popery, &c. *Ibid.*

The Act for ordering the Assembly-House read. *Ibid.*

Letter from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling* remitted to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

Letters appointed to be written to the Secretaries of State, with the Assembly's Answer to the King's Letter, and the Assembly's humble Desire that his Grace the King's Commissioner would transmit the said Answer to His Majesty, which his Grace undertook to do. *Ibid.*

Report concerning Commissions to Members of this Assembly, with an Act sustaining these Commissions, and appointing that Synods and Presbyteries be written to, to take Care that Commissions in Time coming be agreeable to the Acts of the General Assembly, May 7th, Sess. 4.

Mr. *Andrew Fishen* admitted a Member of this Assembly, for the Presbytery of *Zetland*. *Ibid.*

The Presbyteries of *Dornock* and *Kirkwall* their not sending Commissioners to this Assembly, and the Absence of some Ministers of other Presbyteries, excused. *Ibid.*

Petition of Mr. *James Webster*, against Mr. *John Simson*, mentioning his Appeal from the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, with a Remit of that Affair to the Committee for Overtures to be further prepared. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Procedure of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, against Mr. *James* and Mr. *John Maitlands* for not praying for King *George* nomination, and not keeping the Thanksgiving Day 20th January last, for His Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne, and deposing them *simpliciter* from the Office of the Ministry, May 9. Sess. 5.

Letter from the Synod of *Murray* referred to the Committee for Overtures, May 10. Sess. 6.

Mr. *Henry King* transported from *Anstruther* Easter, to *Ferryportnocrags*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of a Process for Scandal against *William Agnew* of *Castlewig*. *Ibid.*

Petitions from the Presbyteries of *Elon* and *Aberdeen*, craving some of the Church's publick Money for defraying the Charges of the Criminal Processes against the Intruders at *Slames* and Old *Aberdeen*, referred to a Committee, as also the Petition of Mr. *Alexander Mitchell*, and another for these concerned in King *William's* Gift of the Bishops Rents Crop 1690. *Ibid.*

Reference

I N D E X.

Reference to the Committee for the publick Accounts, to consider the Expences of Mr. *David Anderson* Professor of Divinity at Old *Aberdeen*, against Dr. *Garden*, before the Parliament. *Ibid.*

Act transporting Mr. *Robert Black* from *Lesmahago* to the *Scots* Congregation in *Rotterdam*, and Letters ordered to be written to that Place, *May 11. Sess. 7.*

A Committee named to consider the Circumstances of the Parish of *Lesmahago*. *Ibid.*

An Appointment on the Procurator and Agents for the Church, to carry on a Process for settling of the Stipend of *Kirkmichael*, with a Remit to the Synod of *Murray*, and Presbytery of *Aberlour*, to consider Mr. *Duncan McLeod's* Grievances. *Ibid.*

Act in Favours of the Relict of Mr. *George Lindsay*, Minister at *Aberlour*, allowing her 320 Pound *Scots*, out of the publick Money, on Account of the Charges her Husband had been at in prosecuting Rabblers, &c. with a Recommendation to the Synod of *Murray* for her further Relief. *Ibid.*

Petition of the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, with a Relation to the Quarter *Censures* against Popery, and the Need they have of Probationers there, where Popery abounds; with an Act appointing Mr. *James Stevenson* to be paid of his former Allowance, and the further Consideration of that Petition referred to a Committee. *Ibid.*

Petition of the Presbytery of *Sky* concerning the Growth of Popery, Largeness of Parishes, and their great Charges about the publick Affairs of the Church, referred to Committees. *Ibid.*

Petition of the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldie*, craving to be re-founded of their Charges, in prosecuting Mr. *William Duguid* and others, referred to a Committee. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of a Process concerning the Settlement of Mr. *John Meldrum* in the Parish of *Kettle*. *Ibid.*

Some Ministers appointed to preach before the Commissioner. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to consider the Church's Grievances. *Ibid.*

References to a Committee concerning the Grievances of the Presbytery of *Sky*, *May 12. 1715. Sess. 8.*

Upon Report of the Visitors of the late Commission Book, the same was attested according to the 8th Act, General Assembly, *Anno 1706*, and the Members of the Commission thanked and commended for their Diligence and Faithfulness. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Accounts of Mr. *John Dundas* Procurator for the Church, for one Year preceeding the Twenty fifth Day of *March 1715*, being Three Quarters of the Year *1714*, and one Quarter of the

I N D E X

- Year 1715, and discharging him and his Cautioner thereof; and also of the Quarter *Centesima*, against Popery, and appointing the Sum of 13 *lib.* 17 *sb.* 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* *Sterling* due to him of Ballance to be stated as the first Article of his next Accompts. *Ibid.*
- Act approving of the Accompts of *Nicol Spence* conjunct Agent for the Church, from 1st May 1714, till 1st May 1715, finding, That he had in his Hands of Ballance 19 *sb.* *Sterling* to compt for. *Ibid.*
- Act appointing that Mr. *William Carstairs*, Mr. *William Mitchell*, Mr. *John Stirling*, Mr. *Neil M'Vicar*, and *Nicol Spence*, be refounded of 280 *lib.* *Scots* advanced by them for Mr. *John Duncan* sent to *Zetland*, and Mr. *James Leslie* sent to *Inverness*, since the last Assembly, in the first Place. *Ibid.*
2. Appointing the ordinary Allowances to Probationers to be sent North by this Assembly or Commission, to be paid. *Ibid.*
 3. Appointing the Order of Payment of the Sum of 320 *lib.* to the Relict of Mr. *George Lindsay* late Minister of *Aberlour*, granted to her by a former Act. *Ibid.*
 4. The Sum 720 *lib.* to be paid to Mr. *David Anderson* Professor of Divinity at *Aberdeen*, besides what he got formerly. *Ibid.*
 5. The Sum of 1000 Merks advanced by divers Brethren, and others, for Mr. *John Morison* Minister at *Carlock* on the publick Account, with the Annualrents thereof since *Candlemas* 1710. *Ibid.*
 6. The Sum of 832 *lib.* 12 *sb.* 6 *d.* resting to Mr. *John Keith*, Mr. *George Oswald*, Mr. *James Sands*, and Mr. *Thomas Baikie*, Ministers of the Synod of *Orkney*. *Ibid.*
 7. Appointment on the Procurator and Agents for the Church on the publick Charges, to pursue Captain *James Moodie* of *Melfetter*, for Payment of Mr. *John Keith's* Stipend, and repairing his Church and Manse. *Ibid.*
 8. The Sum of 201 *lib.* *Scots* yet resting of the Expences depurged by the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldy* in the Process against Mr. *William Duguid* Intruder at *Brantsford*, and others there guilty of a Rabble. *Ibid.*
 9. The Sum of 645 *lib.* 7 *sb.* 8 *d.* *Scots* resting to Mr. *Thomas Blackwell* and others in *Aberdeen*, of the Expences of the Process against Dr. *John Sharp* and Mr. *David Hedderwick*, Intruders into the Church of *Old Machir*, and others, there. *Ibid.*
 10. The Sum of 141 *lib.* 6 Pennies *Scots* resting to *Nicol Spence*, upon Account of a Criminal Process against the Intruder into the Church of *Edzel*, and Rabblers there. *Ibid.*
 11. The Expences of the Criminal Process for removing Mr. *William Law* Intruder into the Church of *Slaines*,
and

I N D E X.

- and Mr. *George Hay* Intruder into the Church of *Rathven*, and punishing Rabblers there. *Ibid.*
12. The Sum of 1060 *lib.* 18 *sb.* *Scots*, to Brethren in the Presbytery of *Skye*, disbursed by them on the publick Accompt. *Ibid.*
13. The Sum of 240 *lib.* to Mr. *Alexander McBain* Minister of *Douglask*, on Account of his Process against the Heretors of *Aath*, for obtaining Possession of the Church there. *Ibid.*
14. The Sum of 400 Merks yearly to Mr. *James Stevenson* Preacher in the Popish Country of *Glenlivet*. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation to Presbyteries and Synods to take Care, That Brethren pay in the one Quarter *Centesima* against Popery, and the other for defraying the Procurator's Charges about the Church's Affairs at *London*, and also other Collections recommended by former Assemblies and Commissions. *Ibid.*
- An Account of the Collection made by Recommendation of the General Assembly, *Anno* 1709, in Favours of Mr. *John James Cesar* Minister of the German Calvinist Congregation at *London*, amounting to 646 *lib.* 2 *sb.* 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d* *Sterling*, with the said Minister and his Consistory's Exoneration and Discharge thereof to *Nicol Spence*. *Ibid.*
- The Members of this Assembly ordered to meet by their several Synods, and name Persons to be of a Committee, for nominating the Members of the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly for managing the publick Affaires of the Church, and prepare a Draught of their Commission and Instructions. *Ibid.*
- The Synod Books of *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Ross* and *Southerland*, *Caithness* and *Orkney*, *Mers* and *Teviotdale*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, examined and attested. *Ibid.*
- The Synod Books of *Murray*, *Dumfries* and *Argyll*, not having been produced to this Assembly, these Synods were excused for this Time, but ordered to produce their Books to the next Assembly. *Ibid.*
- List of Persons in the several Synods brought in, and appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commission to be given by this Assembly, naming the Persons to be thereon, and preparing their Instruction, 13 *May* 1715. *Sess.* 9.
- Act appointing the Procurator and Agents for the Church to assist Mr. *Alexander Mitchel* at old *Aberdeen*, in his Process for Settlement of the Stipends of that Parish, and the Expenses thereof to be advanced out of the publick Money, the Case being extraordinary. *Ibid.*
- The Synod Books of *Aberdeen*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, examined and attested. *Ibid.*
- Act taking off a Sentence of Deposition pronounced against Mr. *Thomas Elder* by the General Assembly *Anno* 1711;

I N D E X.

- and reponing him to the Exercise of the Office of the Holy Ministry. *Ibid.*
- Mr. *Finlay Fergusson*, recommended to the Presbyteries of *Erstoun, Kelfo* and *Selkirk*, to be preferred to their Burfary. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation to the Synod of *Argyll*, to have a due Regard to the Circumstances of the Presbytery of *Skye*; and appointing that Synod to send in their Opinion thereant to the Commission, to whom the Consideration of that Affair is referred. *Ibid.*
- A Letter appointed to be written to the Secretary of State, entreating his Assistance for obtaining a competent Stipend out of the Bishops Rents to the Minister of *Navar*. *Ibid.*
- Upon a Petition of the Presbytery of *Zetland*, they are disjoined from the Synod of *Orkney*, and declared to be only subordinate to the General Assembly, and enjoined yearly to send Commissioners thereto, with their Books, according to the Acts of Assembly 1647, and 1648. *Ibid.*
- The Petition of the Presbytery of *Zetland* for some of the publick Money, refused. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission, to provide Burfes to Mr. *John M'Pherson* and *James Taylor*. *Ibid.*
- Act continuing Mr. *James Oliphant's* Claim on the Equivalent, and refusing to alter the Order of ranking thereof. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission of the Petition and Appeal of Mr. *John Dunlop* late Minister at *Mouswall* deposed by the Synod of *Dumfries*. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission to send two Preachers having *Irish* to the Bounds of the Presbyteries of *Dingwall* and *Chanonrie*. *Ibid.*
- Act appointing the Procurator and Agents for the Church to assist Mr. *Robert Finlay* at *Rosmerknie* in his Process for Settlement of his Stipend, and he to be reimbursed of his Expences out of the publick Money. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission to provide Burfes for Mr. *John M'Arthur*, and Mr. *Francis Robertson*. *Ibid.*
- A Committee appointed to draw up a Memorial concerning the Growth of Popery. *Ibid.*
- Appointment on the Procurator and Agents for the Church concerning the Stipend of *Tain*. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission, to do what is proper for the Encouragement of Mr. *Thomas Mitchel* Minister of *Aberlemno*, and putting a Stop to the Intrusion of Mr. *John Auchterlony* on that Parish. *Ibid.*
- Act appointing the Ministers of *Inch, Culsalmond*, and *Marnock-kirk*, to join as Members of the Presbytery of *Turriff*, until the Meeting of Synod of *Murray*. *Ibid.*
- Report of a Committee concerning the Process, Mr. *James Webster* against Mr. *John Simson*; with Mr. *Webster's* De-

I N D E X.

Declaration, That he judged himself not obliged to be any longer a Pursuer in that Matter; and Mr. *Simson's* Answer, with mutual Instruments thereanent by Mr. *Webster* and Mr. *Simson*. *Ibid*

The Synod Book of *Fife* examined and attested, and that Synod appointed in Time coming to hold their Meetings only at *Coupar* and *Kirkaldie per Vices*. *Ibid*.

His Grace His Majesty's Commissioner and the Moderator acquainted the Assembly, that they had received Letters from the Secretary of State, bearing an Account of His Majesty's gracious Acceptance of the Assembly's Return to His Letter, and that His Majesty was well satisfied with the Expressions of Duty and Loyalty which He found therein, *May 16. Sess. 11.*

Commission to some Ministers and Elders, to try the Complaint and Libel of Mr. *James Webster* against Mr. *John Simson*, with an Allowance to print the Process. *Ibid*.

Recommendation to the several Synods of this Church, in Favours of *Charles Milvain* for Charity. *Ibid*.

The Commission for publick Affairs, and Instructions to the Commissioners, voted and approved. *Ibid*.

A Collection made in the Assembly for *David Lyell* in *Menmuir*, upon Account of his late Sufferings, and he recommended to the Synods of *Angus, Fife* and *Perth*, for further Supply. *Ibid*.

Petition for Mr. *Andrew Fiske*n, representing his Grievances, with an Appointment on the Procurator for the Church, to assist him in using Diligence for obtaining a legal Manse and Glebe in *Delting*, appointing the 600 Merks due to him on the Equivalent to bear Annualrent, and recommending to Presbyteries to make a Collection for building and repairing Manses in *Zetland*. *Ibid*.

The Recommendation of the General Assembly 1709, concerning the Stipend of *Dunkeld* renewed, salving the just Rights of the Minister of *Meigle*, with a Reference to the Commission about that Affair. *Ibid*.

Reference to the Commission, to assist the Minister of *Muckhart* in obtaining an Augmentation to his Stipend. *Ibid*.

Reference to the Commission of the Petition of these concerned in *King William's* Gift of the Bishops Rents 1690. *Ibid*.

Reference to the Commission, to use their best Endeavours to procure more Copies of the Bible in the *Irish* Language, because there are Demands for them in several Places in the Highlands, *May 17. Sess. 12. & ult.*

Reference to the Commission, to apply to the Government for the right Application of Bursaries and Mortifications in Colleges, particularly at *Aberdeen*, and for Recovery of what thereof is misapplied. *Ibid*.

Reference to the Commission, to consider the Grievances of some Presbyteries, with Respect to disaffected Heretors, who force People to go to Meeting-houses, and greatly discourage such

I N D E X.

- as do countenance the legally established Church, and Ministers thereof. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation to Presbyteries, to use their best Endeavours for obtaining the Consent of the Inhabitants in Planting of Parishes with Ministers. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission, to apply to the Commissioners of the Excise and Customs, for discouraging Officers employed by them, who do not submit to Church Discipline when under Scandals. *Ibid.*
- Warrant to the Procurator for the Church, to assign and deliver up to Mr. James Campbell an Equivalent Debenture Note for 101 lib. 6 sh. 9 d. Sterling, and that as his Premium for soliciting Payment of the Monies due to the Church on the Equivalent. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission, for providing Mr. John Monro to a Burse. *Ibid.*
- Instruction to the Commission to enquire whether the one Half of the Presbytery Burses, appointed to be bestowed upon Students having the *Irish* Language be duly applied according to the Acts of Assembly; and if they find any of them either not applied or misapplied, that they take Care to cause them be applied according to the said Acts. *Ibid.*
- Reference to the Commission, to enquire what Bursaries, Synodical or Presbyterial, which ought to be applied to these who have the *Irish* Language, are not disposed of; and where they find any of them vacant, that they prefer to them such young Men as have the *Irish* Language, according to the Acts of Assembly. *Ibid.*
- Letters appointed to be written to the Synods of *Fife* and *Perth*, and other Church Judicatures who sent Letters or Representations to this Assembly, shewing, that the Matters therein mentioned were fully argued, and that those Methods were taken, as to them, which were thought most expedient at this Juncture, &c. *Ibid.*
- A List of Probationers and Students of Divinity brought in, and that of Probationers read, and both ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*
- Protestation the Synod of *Lotbrian* and *Tweeddale* against Mr. John Fairholm of *Baberton* and others, for not insisting in his Appeal to this Assembly, with Relation to Mr. Mungo Clarkson's Settlement at *Currie*. *Ibid.*
- Protestation the Synod of *Fife* against Mr. James Paterson late School-master at *Kinross*, for not insisting in his Appeal. *Ibid.*
- Protestation the Synod of *Murray*, and Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, against Mr. Hugh Tod, for not insisting in his Appeal concerning the Settlement of Mr. Walter Syme at *Glasf*. *Ibid.*
- Protestation the Synod of *Aberdeen* against Thomas Burnet, for not insisting in his Appeal anent planting of *Cabrach*. *Ibid.*
- Protestation the Synod of *Galloway* against John Kirkoe, for not insisting in his Appeal with Relation to a Scandal. *Ibid.*
- Intimation of the first Meeting of the Commission: *Ibid.*
- Committee for revising the Minutes of this Assembly, and giving Orders about printing the publick Acts thereof. *Ibid.*
- The Minutes of this last Sederunt read over. *Ibid.*
- The Moderator's Speech at closing of the General Assembly. *Ibid.*
- His Grace His Majesty's High Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly, after they had gone through their whole Work. *Ibid.*

